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Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

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Decisions adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women at its 2015 sessions

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Decisions

2015/1
Report of the Global Evaluation Advisory Committee on the external assessments of the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Global Evaluation Advisory Committee on the external assessments of the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women);

2. *Commends* UN-Women for the establishment of a strong enabling environment for evaluation, the strong performance of the independent Evaluation Office, based on the standards of independence, credibility and utility, the leadership of UN-Women in promoting gender equality and responsive evaluation through coordination efforts within the United Nations system and through partnerships, including at the country level, and for fostering innovative partnerships for the development of national evaluation capacity;

3. *Emphasizes* that programme countries should have greater ownership and leadership in the evaluation of all forms of assistance, welcomes the role of UN-Women in reinforcing the development of national evaluation capacity, and reiterates its request to UN-Women to continue its efforts in this regard;

4. *Takes note* of recommendation number 4, in paragraph 18 (a) of the report, to incorporate a separate budget line for evaluation activities to be considered by the Executive Board in the integrated budget for 2016-2017, with the aim of achieving the target of allocating 3 per cent of the programme budget thereto;

5. *Requests* UN-Women to protect the strong performance of the independent Evaluation Office and to continue to strengthen the utility, credibility and independence of evaluation, in addition to continuing to strengthen innovation and country-based partnerships for decentralized evaluations;

6. *Also requests* UN-Women to continue to demonstrate the importance of evaluation and to enhance the use of evaluation recommendations in its work;

7. *Further requests* UN-Women to continue to strengthen its evaluation capacities and to allocate adequate human and financial resources to the independent Evaluation Office and the overall evaluation function;

8. *Requests* UN-Women to continue to promote reporting against the evaluation indicator of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and to conduct analysis of the reports produced;

9. *Also requests* UN-Women to carry out an internal review of the current evaluation policy, including with regard to the independence of the evaluation function, and to report thereon within the framework of the annual report on the evaluation function, with the review to be considered by the Executive Board at its annual session of 2016.

9 February 2015

2015/2
Progress report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women on the strategic plan, 2014-2017

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women on the progress made on the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan, 2014-2017, including operational activities in 2014,[1] and welcomes the achievements made in its implementation, as described in the report;

2. *Takes note with concern* of the ongoing funding gap, and encourages all countries in a position to do so to increase their voluntary contributions, especially to regular resources, to ensure the full and effective implementation of the strategic plan, 2014-2017;

3. *Requests* UN-Women to continue to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability;

4. *Takes note* of the progress made in the reporting on the results of the implementation of the strategic plan, 2014-2017, and requests the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to make further improvements in the annual reporting on the strategic plan by incorporating summarized information on progress made on the integrated results framework and to provide further analysis on what drives or hinders the performance of UN-Women, in order to increase its effectiveness, as appropriate;

5. *Requests* UN-Women to address in more detail, in its annual reporting, the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of United Nations operational activities for development;

6. *Decides* to transmit the report to the Economic and Social Council.

2 July 2015

2015/3
Report on the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2014

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report on the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2014, and the programme of work for 2015 of the independent Evaluation Office;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the efforts made by UN-Women and the progress achieved in systematic strengthening of the evaluation function;

3. *Also welcomes* the progress of UN-Women in leading system-wide gender evaluation efforts;

[1] UNW/2015/6.
[2] UNW/2015/5.

4. *Requests* UN-Women to continue to strengthen its evaluation capacities and to allocate adequate human and financial resources to the evaluation function;

5. *Emphasizes* that evaluation should be country-driven and that programme countries should have greater ownership and leadership in the evaluation of all forms of assistance;

6. *Requests* UN-Women to enhance the coverage of evaluations, implementation rate of planned evaluations, submission of management responses and use of evaluation recommendations in its work;

7. *Also requests* UN-Women to continue to pursue United Nations system-wide gender evaluation efforts and to foster innovative partnerships for national evaluation capacity development, and commends the efforts of UN-Women in this regard.

2 July 2015

2015/4
Report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report on internal audit and investigation activities for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014;[3]

2. *Expresses its continuing support* for the audit and investigation functions within UN-Women;

3. *Requests* the internal audit and investigation offices to include in annual reports:

(a) An opinion based on the scope of work undertaken and on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Entity's framework of governance and risk management and control;

(b) A concise summary of work and the criteria that support the opinion;

(c) A statement of conformance with the internal audit standards being adhered to;

(d) A view on whether the resourcing of their function is appropriate, sufficient and effectively deployed to achieve the desired internal audit and investigation coverage;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Audit Advisory Committee for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014.[4]

2 July 2015

[3] UNW/2015/4.
[4] UNW/2015/4/Add.1.

2015/5
Structured dialogue on financing

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the strategic brief on resource mobilization[5] as an element of the Entity's ongoing structured dialogue on the financing of its strategic plan, 2014-2017, and welcomes the progress made by UN-Women in that regard;

2. *Notes with concern* the ongoing funding gap in core resources for the 2015 budget, and encourages all countries in a position to do so to increase their voluntary contributions to UN-Women, especially to its regular resources, to ensure the full and effective implementation of the strategic plan, 2014-2017, and in order for the Entity to assist countries in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, to support the implementation of country programmes to advance national goals relating to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective and to support the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[6] and its review outcomes;

3. *Recognizes* the critical role of UN-Women in United Nations system coordination and the need for other organizations and entities of the United Nations system to support gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including through the system-wide action plan;

4. *Requests* UN-Women in the context of the structured dialogue on financing:

(a) To engage in informal dialogue with Member States, including in specially arranged interactive discussions on the margins of its annual session of each year, to ensure ongoing discussion, exchange of information and analysis of funding issues and options, taking into consideration the midterm review of the strategic plan, 2014-2017, the Economic and Social Council dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system and the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, recalling the funding analysis and prior projections;

(b) To submit, in the context of the annual reporting on funding and resource mobilization, an analysis of the predictability, flexibility and alignment of resources provided for the implementation of the approved strategic plan, including funding gaps and their implications according to the integrated results and resources framework, and in that context to provide information on efforts to expand the donor base, including reporting on non-Member State donors and on the transaction costs of those efforts;

(c) To continue to respond to the evolving development opportunities to expand its partnerships with the private sector, civil society organizations, philanthropic organizations, the general public, multilateral organizations, international financial institutions and global public-private partnerships in a

[5] UNW/2015/10.

[6] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

transparent and coordinated manner, in line with the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector;

(d) To continue to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability and, in that context, to provide information on its programme activities.

16 September 2015

2015/6
Integrated budget for the biennium 2016-2017

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the integrated budget for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the biennium 2016-2017,[7] which presents a single integrated budget that includes all budgetary categories, to complement the strategic plan, 2014-2017;

2. *Takes note* of the details included in the integrated budget estimates, the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[8] and the related response of UN-Women to the report of the Committee;

3. *Approves* gross resources in the amount of $196.4 million for the institutional budget, to support organizational effectiveness and efficiency, and notes that those estimates include an amount of $27 million in cost recovery from other resources;

4. *Notes* that UN-Women has budgeted 75 per cent of the cost recovery projected in the budget for the biennium 2016-2017, recalls the principle of full cost recovery, and also recalls its decision 2013/2 of 27 June 2013, in which it requested UN-Women, in the context of the midterm reviews of its integrated budgets, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, to recommend adjustments to the approved cost-recovery rates, as required, to be presented to the Executive Board at its annual session of 2016;

5. *Also notes* the planned reduction of the ratio of the management costs of UN-Women, in line with the request made by the Executive Board in its decision 2013/6 of 18 September 2013, and in that regard requests UN-Women to actively engage in joint efforts in the United Nations development system to establish common services, including making full use of existing long-term agreements;

6. *Further notes* that, in the event that actual cost recovery is higher than the estimates included in the budget proposal, the additional amount may be used for management activities to allow more regular resources to be used for programme activities, requests the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to report to the Executive Board on its utilization in the context of the next budget proposal, and asks UN-Women to further strive for an overall reduction of the ratio of its management costs;

[7] UNW/2015/9.
[8] UNW/2015/8.

7. *Welcomes* the inclusion of a separate budget line for the independent evaluation office in the integrated budget for the biennium 2016-2017, in line with decision 2015/1 of 9 February 2015, and requests UN-Women to also include a separate budget line for internal audit and investigation activities in the next integrated budget, as requested in its decision 2014/4 of 19 June 2014;

8. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 65/259 of 24 December 2010, and requests UN-Women to undertake an analysis of its post structure in order to specify how posts relating to normative and operational functions are funded and to present its findings to the Executive Board no later than in its budget proposal for the biennium 2018-2019.

16 September 2015